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This volume will admirably supplement the series of memoirs in course of publication on the marine zoölogy of Alaska by Mr. Dall, who has made very extensive collections on the coast of Alaska.

BARRANDE'S BRACHIOPODS OF BOHEMIA.¹—This volume of extracts from the fifth of the magnificent series of the *Système Silurien du Centre de la Bohême*, is of very general interest to palæontological students, since it gives the results of the author's studies upon an interesting series of faunæ, where the succession is quite complete; and although the distinguished author is quite fully persuaded that his facts and inductions are opposed to the theory of descent, others who favor the theory find these profound works rich in facts and inferences which go to strengthen their own views; so anything that comes from the palæontological workshop at Prague—and least of all are they mere chips—is always welcomed.

It will be seen how useful to the general student of biology this book will prove when we enumerate the subjects here treated:

I. Variations observed among the Silurian Brachiopods of Bohemia.

II. Vertical distribution of the genera and species of Brachiopods in the Silurian basin of Bohemia.

III. Specific connections established by the Brachiopods between the Silurian faunæ of Bohemia and the Palæozoic faunæ of foreign countries.

HUXLEY ON THE CRAYFISH.²—Whether it is because we happen to be just now greatly interested in the crayfish and its belongings, or because this book is in itself very attractive, we confess ourselves very much pleased and interested in it. The method of teaching zoölogy now-a-days is to induce the student to learn all he can from the thorough, detailed study of one or several types, rather than to bewilder his brain with a ponderous classification of the entire animal kingdom and a large but thin mass of superficial pseudo-knowledge of it. He is now taught to become, *ab initio*, an original investigator, to discover new facts for himself, or at least to discover what are to him new facts, and thus enthusiasm and real interest in the subject are bred. Just now a class of college students are studying with us and drawing the structure of the lobster, and with most excellent results in the way of exciting their interest and curiosity; judging by the results this seems to us to be the very best way of teaching natural history. This book, which is a monograph of the crayfish from

¹ *Brachiopodes. Etudes locales. Extraits du Système Silurien du Centre de la Bohême. Vol. v. Brachiopodes. 7 Planches. Par JOACHIM BARRANDE. Prague et Paris, 1879. 8°, pp. 356.*

² *The International Scientific Series. The Crayfish. An Introduction to the study of Zoölogy. By T. H. HUXLEY. With 82 illustrations. New York, D. Appleton & Co., 1880. 12°, pp. 371.*

every point of view, will prove a great aid in such teaching. The story is told in a straightforward, honest way, and so truthfully that there is little or no room for fault-finding. We may not believe, with the author, that the eyes of the crayfish or any other Crustacean are homologous with the legs, but this does not impair our enjoyment of the story of the structure of the eye and how the crayfish sees, and how its mind, or what answers to a mind, operates. The illustrations are most excellent.

THOMAS' NOXIOUS INSECTS OF ILLINOIS.¹—Instead of trying to cover the whole or even the larger part of the field, the author has wisely confined himself to working up one and a very important group of injurious insects, the plant lice. The group is treated of systematically, the genera and species described at sufficient length for determination, and their habits described as fully as possible, with remarks on their insect enemies and the best remedies against their attacks. With this report in hand any one in Illinois or adjoining States, whose crops or fruit trees or flowers are afflicted by these troublesome pests, can ascertain their affinities and names, and the best means of getting rid of them. A great deal of useful information is scattered through the report, which, barring some defects in its typographical appearance, the common fault of State reports, is well worthy of wide distribution and use by farmers and gardeners. A number of new species are described, and as this volume is the first attempt to treat monographically of this extensive family of insects, it is worthy of the attention of the entomologist as well as the layman.

RILEY ON THE COTTON WORM.²—This third Bulletin of the U. S. Entomological Commission gives the results of Prof. Riley's researches on the cotton worm (*Aletia argillacea*), which is so injurious to the cotton plant that the average annual loss is estimated at over \$12,000,000. The author, after treating of the losses sustained from the attacks of this caterpillar, describes the egg and metamorphoses and habits of the insect in its different stages. Riley has discovered that, contrary to the usual impression, the worm hatches in April, and that the third generation is the most abundant, this having usually been regarded as the first, there being seven annual generations in the extreme Southern States. The relations of the soil, of the weather, to the development of the caterpillars are referred to; and the author states his belief that the moth hybernates in the southern portion of the

¹ *Eighth Report of the State Entomologist on the Noxious and Beneficial Insects of the State of Illinois*. Third Annual Report by CYRUS THOMAS, State Entomologist. Springfield, 1879. 8°, pp. 212.

² Department of the Interior. United States Entomological Commission, Bulletin No. 3. The Cotton Worm. Summary of its Natural History, with an account of its Enemies, and the best means of controlling it; being a report of progress of the work of the Commission. By CHARLES V. RILEY, M. A., Ph. D. Washington, January 28, 1880. 8°, pp. 144, with numerous illustrations.